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THE MENACE

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ROMANISM THROTTLES SECULAR PRESS

Papal Power Suppresses All the News Not Favorable to the Hierarchy and Its Satellites--Protestant Editor Cringes at Harlot's Feet and Apologizes for Accidental Truth--Church Will Launch Daily in Chicago to Aid Great School Fight

Preliminary to acquiring absolute political control in this country, the powers of popery are rapidly Romanizing all those basic institutions without the freedom of which no civic liberty can survive. These fundamentals are the Press, the Public School System, and the Postal Service--Freedom's holy trinity. And the greatest of these is the Press.

Already a considerable majority of our daily newspapers are either owned outright or are directly controlled by Roman Catholics. Others are being added to the list almost daily. In all communities where the Roman church is a formidable factor, those papers not so owned or directly controlled are indirectly ruled by the same insidious influence. This also is true of magazines, reviews, and various other journals of public opinion. Everywhere the hierarchy dominates and dictates, until freedom of the press has become a thing traditional.

In New Orleans, for example, all the dailies are of Romanish proprietorship and virtually are organs of the Vatican. The *Times-Picayune* almost might be called an official mouthpiece. Recently the story of the scandalous conduct of a New Orleans priest was put into type in the office of the *Daily Item*—but never reached the world of readers. It was caught in the slug proofs by the Catholic owner and ordered killed. Swell chance there is of the truth being told about Romanish rascality in a servile press! No wonder the hierarchy is striving to suppress the unaffiliated and unpurchasable MENACE!

Press Prostitution in Chicago

In Chicago no newspaper dares print anything which does not bear the stamp of Rome's approval. One paper's staff consists almost entirely of Catholics. And it always has been so. We all remember the old *Inter-Ocean*, now fortunately defunct, the most shameless prostitute of all the Fourth Estate—veritably an organ of the Romanish oligarchy—a sheet that was conceived in corruption, that existed in impudicity, and that died in dishonor. One of the chief bondholders of the *Inter-Ocean*, who dominated its policy, was James A. Patten, the "wheat king" who is a rock-ribbed Romanist.

Merely as an example of one of many, George D. Flynn, business manager of the *Minneapolis News*, is a Roman Catholic. And speaking of Flynn, I am credibly informed that John J. Flynn, managing editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, the cleanest and one of the very ablest daily newspapers published, is not a Roman Catholic. What a narrow escape for John, that I learned this in time! But he certainly has grounds for a libel suit against his name. This must be a case of "the sins of the father" descending to the children.

When the Boston *Herald* and the Boston *Traveler* were sold at auction a few weeks ago, they were purchased by F. G. Sullivan, a Roman Catholic, representing Catholic financiers. Robert L. O'Brien, another Roman Catholic—how strange!—was elected president of the new company organized to publish these papers, and it was stated in the Associated Press dispatches that he will have "direction of the editorial and news policy of the papers." Sure thing!

It has come that the Roman Catholic church dignitaries in many cities decide who shall be employed on the newspapers of their respective communities. This is largely the case in St. Louis, where, it is said, Archbishop Glennon dictates such things. I was told by a newspaper man that he was refused a place on the *Republic* (where Glennon notably is the power behind the tripod) because he wore a Masonic emblem.

Lets Good One Get By

An instance of newspaper subservience to the interests of Rome, typical of all others, is found in the *Elmira* (N. Y.) *Star-Gazette*. In the issue of that paper for September 8, appeared one of those popular syndicated "Vest Pocket Essays" by that gentle humorist, the

BY WALTER HURT

late George Fitch. It was of the "Ponderous Personages" series, was whimsically illustrated, and carried the head, "Lucresia Borgia." The thing is a delicious but deadly bit of satire, and is herewith given:

Lucresia Borgia was a lady who lived in Italy 400 years ago and whose reputation is now being dry-cleaned after having been alluded to with scorn and horror for several centuries.

Lucresia was the daughter of old man Borgia, who was a big noise in Italy and was a Cardinal at a time when the clergy dispensed so much morality to the people that it didn't have any left for itself. At that time a daughter was so valuable an asset that the assessors considered listing them as personal property and the man who had three or four handsome daughters could very easily make a luxurious living as a father-in-law. When Lucresia was eleven years of age, her father married her to a Spaniard who had plenty of money and a good political pull. However, no sooner had he done this than he discovered to his indignation that he could have gotten a better offer from an Italian lord. In those days people did not stand on petty formalities. Borgia promptly annulled the marriage and married his daughter all over again to a handsome premium. Borgia, however, was elaborate so fast that his daughter was doubling in value every year. This made the young lord very paise as a husband, and presently this marriage was annulled. This time Borgia got a Duke for a son-in-law and was very well satisfied, for he needed Dukes in his political business, he being pope at a time when the tenure of office was very precarious and evanescent.

However, a split in the party soon took place and the Duke got on the wrong side. For this he was soon murdered by his brother-in-law, and then Lucresia's father, with a glad cry, advertised her for marriage once more and began looking over the market.

By this time prospective sons-in-law were a little shy owing to the consistent lack of luck of the former incumbents, but the son of the Duke of Florence took a chance, and at 22 Lucresia became a blushing bride for the fourth time. Lucresia has been greatly criticized in history for her industry in collecting husbands, and the circumstances under which at least one of them expired. But it is now admitted that she was merely an obedient daughter and would have married the whole Almanach de Gotha to please her father. She lived many years quite happily with her last husband and is entitled to at least as much respect as the modern women who marry long series of husbands with no consent but that of the divorce judge.

Apology Quickly Follows

This gave an awful jolt to the papal sensibilities, but George didn't care. The owner of the *Star-Gazette* did, however, after the matter had been brought to his attention by his Romanish masters. As a sort of penance the paper was required to eat crow, humble pie, and every description of Romanish dirt. Next day (wonder they didn't get out an extra for the purpose the same day!) appeared in the editorial columns an apology as abject as it was ungrammatical. Here it is:

AN APOLOGY

The *Star-Gazette* wishes to apologize to its readers for the Vest Pocket Essay by George Fitch published last night on Lucresia Borgia. Its reflection on the church was not detected till it had been published, or it surely would have been eliminated.

Mr. Fitch's writings are invariably high class, interesting and humorous. They more clearly approach Mark Twain's style than anything available and are a feature greatly appreciated by all.

That in this one case he offended some readers unintentionally in his facetious style is a cause for deep regret on the part of the publishers, who do not countenance such references.

Can you beat it for slavish servility?

And a most inadvertent individual must have written that eyecatching slush. "Invariably," you know, means without exception. An unintentional truth, in this case.

Certainly Is Pathetic

Funny, but just above this apology appeared another brief editorial, headed, "The Explanation Doesn't Excuse." Maybe those heads got switched in the make-up. More sad accidents can happen in that office than in any other I know.

In Elmira, by the way, Romanism splits 50-50 with Protestantism in the census enumeration.

I recall how once when I was holding down the city editor's desk on the *Rocky Mountain News*, Denver, I allowed the obnoxious word "Romanish" to get by in a hastily scanned piece of church copy. The criminal thing fortunately was

caught in proof by the night editor, who was a Roman Catholic (as also was the managing editor), and it was promptly executed—all persons guilty connected with it narrowly escaping the same fate.

Now comes the announcement that Rome is to establish, in Chicago, her first avowedly denominational daily—the *Daily Estate*. I am convinced this is true—because several church papers, such as the *Catholic Citizen*, of Milwaukee, deny it. Besides, the *Irish Voice*, of Chicago, and other quasi-secular papers carry the advertised announcement—and I'll believe an advertisement, every time, before I will a Catholic ecclesiastic editorial.

But the *Daily Estate* will be a corking good newspaper, too. Some of these Roman Catholics are mighty capable newspaper men—I've worked with 'em, and know. Anyway, Rome never does anything indifferently. It isn't her way. Whenever she puts over anything, she does it right—from mendacity to murder. She always tries to have the best in the market—all the indelicacies of the season, you know. Yes, Rome always "gets the best of it"—except when THE MENACE happens to hand her something.

Here's The Real Dope

It may puzzle some to know why Rome should invest her own funds in a newspaper, when she controls the policy of those of Protestant ownership. The explanation is that Protestant papers can serve the interests of Rome only passively. What she now wants, and soon will need, is a daily press that shall be active and aggressive in disseminating her doctrines. Not only will this provide against her own people reading the mildly heretical Protestant papers, but, with her characteristic crafty thoroughness, she will make her press so excellent that Protestants will read it on its own merits in preference to their own subsidized sheets—thus giving Rome an extensive and effective medium for proselyting propaganda, actually paid for by its victims. Also, such papers will add greatly to Rome's political power and patronage possibilities, besides serving as admirable instruments of intimidation and agents of graft.

That this press enterprise is to be made nation wide in scope, is evidenced by the statement that the *Daily Estate* will, in time, be published synchronously in Chicago, New York, New Orleans, and San Francisco. And this is only a starter, mind you, Mike.

It is eminently significant, too, that this Catholic daily should be launched in Chicago just as the big battle for Catholic control of the public schools is begun in that city. From this coincidental circumstance, it is evident that the enemy feels the imperative need of a great and an untrammelled fighting organ in this supreme struggle for the capture and ultimate elimination of our secular educational system. But THE MENACE, vigilant as always, will be on the field of conflict with a special "School Crisis Edition" of FIVE MILLION copies, and the foe will find the fighting good, and their Vulture of Victory will find its prospective perch on the standard of popery a most precarious roosting-place.

Old Doc Egan On Deck

It is reported that Maurice Francis Egan, United States ambassador to Denmark, has been engaged as editor of the *Daily Estate*. For a long time I have heard that there was "something rotten in Denmark" (Bill Shakespeare hinted it to me, in fact). Of course Doctor Egan will serve merely as a figurehead, while a real newspaper man will be in active executive charge. Professor Egan is an accomplished scholar, and skilled in belles-lettres, but he knows nothing

about the practical work of getting out a newspaper. His chief function doubtless will be to invest the establishment with a needed atmosphere of respectability.

The *Daily Estate* is to have a censor—inevitably. The person slated for this job is Father John F. Noll, president of the Catholic Publishing Co., of Huntington, Ind., producers of *Our Sunday Visitor*. Fine! John, you know, is the guy who took the sense out of censor. Doubtless he will find copious doses of "Father John's Medicine" an invaluable aid in his work—that priestly nostrum having formally been pronounced a fake by U. S. government officials.

Wonder if I could get a job with the *Daily Estate*?

The announcing advertisement states:

"The *Daily Estate* will never interfere with the recognized constitutional religious liberty of the individual," and—

"The *Daily Estate* will never attempt by threat, slander, innuendo or unwarranted attack to interfere with or destroy established recognized institutions of merit, regardless of political or religious belief."

That sounds good.

But—
"The *Daily Estate* will forever, and to the limit of its ability and finances, champion the cause of the Catholic church in America."

That sounds different.
It is understood, of course, that Catholics do not recognize the public school system as an "institution of merit." In fact, the Catholic church finds no merit in any of our free American institutions, nor in any institution that is not subordinate and obedient to the authority of Rome.

What It Really Means

As for non-interference with "recognized constitutional religious liberty," it is a fact well known and by its official mouthpieces not only admitted but proclaimed, that the only virtuously valid religious liberty is the liberty to worship under the restrictions of Rome. And as for any phase of "constitutional" liberty, it is equally well known and almost as generally admitted that always Catholicism subordinates the Federal Constitution to the Canon Law.

Wherefore can the *Daily Estate*, consistently with the preceding declarations of purpose in its cunningly misleading advance salutation, "forever, and to the limit of its ability and finances, champion the cause of the Catholic church in America."

This is the first definitely open move in the mighty campaign for the political conquest of America, the seizure of the machinery of government, the restoration of the temporal power of the papacy and the removal of the Vatican from Rome to Washington.

With the absorption of the secular news press, if Rome succeeds in her efforts to strangle the voice of The Menace, the last of our liberties will vanish.

Hans Schmidt

The convicted murderer of Anna Ammuller who is confined in the death house at Sing Sing has been granted an extension of time until October 25 to prepare his appeal for a new trial.

Whether Hans Schmidt will ever pay the penalty for the heinous crime of which he has been convicted is problematical, but since the body of his victim was recently buried without the head and hence, according to law, not fully identified, the chances are that Rome will find a crevice in the foundation of justice through which he may escape.

The insanity racket having failed to operate in his case as it did in that of Priest Mullen of Hillside, Ill., some other avenue must be opened and this extension of time will no doubt uncover the necessary way to freedom and safety for the Holy Hans.

Congressman John J. Press-Muzzie Fitzgerald of New York has been nominated for Justice of the Supreme Court. Are the pages going to let their press-muzzling plans go by default, or have the Knights another man or two in congress who will carry on the game? We will miss Fitz, though.

COMSTOCKERY STANDS UNMASKED

Methods of Modern Inquisition, Under Guise of Morality and With Aid of Iniquitous Law, are Exposed--Infernal Spirit Which Inspires Persecution of The Menace at Rome's Behest is Revealed in all Its Hideousness

The managing editor of The Menace has handed me a letter from the Rev. F. L. Snyder of Culver, Ind., commenting on my first article concerning Comstock and Comstockery, from which I take the following:

He [Hurt] has got me hanging in the air by his article on Anthony Comstock, in this week's MENACE. From time most memorable I had been led to believe, by those who were supposed to know, that Mr. Comstock was a truly great and good man, and that the work he was doing was a great work—now to be told by Mr. Hurt that he was the foulest of moral carrion! The *Evangelical Messenger*, my church paper, has time and again told of the good work Mr. Comstock was doing. And I know that these men have been able and conscientious editors. I inclose two clippings from this week's *Forist* Phoenix, a sane and clean paper, that speaks in a most commendatory manner of Mr. Comstock and his work. Either there have been, and are, a lot of dense editorial ignoramuses, or somebody is doing some base lying. All I want to know is, which is which. I want the truth, and the evidence of the truth. I like the general way Mr. Hurt slings language—but what I want, right and most, is the TRUTH. Has he given it to us concerning Comstock? I confess I don't know.

Of course, you don't know me; but I fairly well know myself. I am what you'd call a conservative. I don't "jump" at a new movement, and I don't let go right away when something doesn't look quite right or clear to me. But just now, I confess, I'm at a sort of standstill—waiting for more light on Hurt, Comstock, and those editors in whose word I've had confidence for years. From the longest hair on my head to the sole of my feet, I've been with THE MENACE in its repeatedly stated mission. But just now I'm waiting for a little clearing up.

Liberal Spirit Is Welcome

That's the kind of letter I like. It rings true in every line. Here's a man after my own heart—a just and reasonable man, who, irrespective of preconceived notions and regardless of what he may believe, desires to know the TRUTH and demands proof that it IS TRUE. He is possessed of that fair-mindedness which withholds its judgment until it has examined the evidence. He is honest enough to admit that, whatever he may believe, he has no actual knowledge of the facts in the case. "I confess I don't know," is the candid declaration which follows his inquiry. Such frankness is the first hallmark of sincerity, and it goes always with the open mind in quest of truth. Also, it is refreshing, by reason of its rarity. Would there were more of it!

In acute contrast are those contracted and cantankerous individuals who care more for their own opinions than for truth; whom no argument can impress and no logic can convince; who arbitrarily ignore all proof, and who, without reference to the real merits of the matter, and despite all evidence of their error, persist in believing only what they already believe and wish to believe. Of such stuff are Romanists made, and not a few persons in the Protestant camp seem to have missed their train.

You ask for "a little clearing up"—and you shall have it, brother. This Comstock thing has got to be threshed out by The Menace, and your letter is as good a nail as any for the operation.

Comstock has been tried by a multitudinous jury of his fellow-citizens—a majority of civilized mankind, in fact—and convicted before the bar of public opinion. For myself, I merely concur in that verdict.

Testimony Has Gone Before

Since his letter was written, Mr. Snyder has received, through the columns of The Menace, much of the evidence for which he asks.

First and most important, there has been pointed the logical con-

nection of Comstock with the Romanish system of oppression and persecution. The authenticity of such alliance can not be doubted by any reasonable and reasoning person. This phase of the matter is what makes it important to The Menace and its friends, and which alone justifies the space given it in a paper the sole mission of which is the defense of America against the dangers of Rome.

Not without its weight at least of moral evidence is the resolution adopted by the National Purity Federation, in annual session, condemning the Comstock Law and praying for relief from its evils, which was cited in The Menace last week. Here we have a great body of men and women of unimpeachable character and lofty purpose, devoted to the propaganda of social purity, set against the pretenses of a single individual. Is not this an influence impossible to ignore?

Men who knew Comstock throughout his leprosy life, residents of his home town and persons of credibility, have testified that from very boyhood he was given to whispering lies.

Comstock has been almost universally condemned by the secular press. Newspapers and magazines of the cleanest character and most careful policy have denounced him since first he entered the public eye. Such journals never speak with ulterior motive and never without authority. And always with a view to the possibilities of a libel action, they never make specific charges without thoughtfully providing themselves with abundant proof.

Criticism Not Restricted

It must not be supposed that mordant criticism of Comstock was confined to those papers that were attacked by him or such individuals as he had involved in his devilish snares. He was reprehended by the most respectable element of society, and publications of the highest standing and widest influence united in his condemnation. Even so staid and conservative a newspaper as the *New York Tribune*, recognized organ of the ultra-respectable, characterized him as a social pest and dubbed him "the Mosquito of Morality." Of course this denunciation was not entirely unanimous; publications as well as individuals can be deceived concerning a man's character, and Comstock was an adept at such deception. But the adverse attitude was so nearly universal that the exceptions are scarcely to be considered.

William E. Lewis, editor and publisher of the *New York Morning Telegraph*, than whom no man of my acquaintance has a more rigid sense of justice, a man of the highest personal and business reputation, one not given to intemperate opinion or impulsive expression, and who, besides, has had every opportunity for knowing the truth about Comstock, in a personal letter says:

"Your article about Comstock is very much what a thousand men would like to write about him."

It is significant that never did Comstock take legal action against those who charged him with the most atrocious moral offenses of which man may be guilty, nor did he ever enter a denial of such. I have myself repeatedly hurled these charges at him in print and sent him marked copies of the papers containing them, inviting him to proceed against me under the law of criminal libel—but always he sought safety in silence. It is incredible that any innocent person would remain passive under such accusations.

"More To Follow"

These things are offered merely as points of general evidence. The Menace, of course, has no power to subpoena witnesses for personal testimony, but it now is collecting specific evidence in the case, which later will be presented in systematic array. When all the available

evidence shall have been submitted, I am confident of the righteous verdict of our broad-minded brother and all others of his impartial kind.

For further immediate information concerning Comstock's criminal career, I would refer Mr. Snyder to the vast volume of literature on the subject, enough of which has been published to fill a considerable library. Of special interest are the books, "Comstock's Frauds Exposed" and "Anthony Comstock: His Career of Cruelty and Crime."

I am unable to agree with our brother's assertion that, if The Menace has told the truth about Comstock, the editors of his denominational papers are, in consequence, a set of ignoramuses. I take a more charitable view, and am quite unwilling to charge such "able and conscientious" men with crass ignorance. Their mistaken estimate of Comstockian character has resulted not from a lack of intelligence but from a lack of information. It is not difficult for me to understand how they have been deceived in the matter. Time was when I, too, was a Comstock dupe and believed him all he pretended to be. Now that I know different, it is my wish to disillusion others.

Now, for those of The Menace readers who insist that Comstock is different from what I have described him.

Let me say to you, my friends, that you are talking of something which you know nothing about. This is not a good thing to do. Silence, under the circumstances, were greatly wiser.

Have you ever met Comstock? I have. Have you ever studied his methods? I have. Have you ever inspected closely his career? I have. Have you ever investigated his record? I have.

With "Feet of Clay"

It shocks us, I know, when our idols are shattered. But then idol worship is not an excellent thing.

Of course I know all that familiar cant about our dealing with principles instead of persons—know it as the studious schoolboy knows his perfected lesson, and I know also how little it really means. But the fact remains, stubborn as stone, that in this world and in the affairs of life we have to deal with human beings, who must be held responsible for their misdeeds, for only in persons are principles exemplified. We must consider individuals with regard to the ideas they represent—as active agents for good or evil—and Comstock personally represented all the evils of Comstockery.

Comstock WAS Comstockery.

Apocryphal of this, a great deal of puerile rot has been prated about "defaming the dead." This is eminently out of place when it concerns one whose whole long life was its own defamation. There is no real reason, anyway, why the truth should not be told about some person who died yesterday, just the same as about some historic character of the Roman hierarchy who has been a long time dead. Anthony Comstock's memory is no more sacred than is that of the Borgias. Tomaso de Torquemada is dead, but no one not in sympathy with his inquisitorial spirit would for that reason care to call him a nice man. If I remember rightly, Benedict Arnold is dead, and if I mistake not Judas Iscariot no longer answers "Here!" to the census enumerator; yet, both from platform and from pulpit, occasionally I hear both these persons referred to rather unkindly. Besides, I am not criticizing a corpse, but human character, which, through its imperishable precepts, endures eternally. All actions carry their consequences, and consequences are immortal. "The evil men do live after them." And Comstock's iniquitous law still stands forth

(Continued on Page 2, Column 2)

Don't Miss the Big Special Edition Announcement on the Fourth Page!